

WASHINGTON, LAFAYETTE TO CELEBRATE FRENCH ALLIANCE AT VALLEY FORGE ALSO: REVOLUTIONARY WAR ENCAMPMENT, ONEIDA INDIAN NATION AND KIDS' ACTIVITIES

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Valley Forge, PA—American Revolutionary War re-enactors will be at Valley Forge National Historical Park (VFNHP) this weekend (May 6-7) to celebrate the 228th Anniversary of the French Alliance and familiarize visitors with the trials of the historic encampment that birthed the Army that won American independence.

"The alliance with France brought renewed hope to the Continental Army encamped here at Valley Forge," said VFNHP superintendent, Mike Caldwell. "Its announcement gave the troops an opportunity to both celebrate and demonstrate the increased military skills learned during the long winter of 1777-78."

Throughout the weekend, visitors are invited to enter a simulated colonial-era military encampment where they can learn from re-enactors portraying officers, enlisted men, women, and children about their experiences at Valley Forge and the meaning of the French Alliance to the American Revolution.

The celebration begins at 10 a.m. Saturday. On both Saturday and Sunday there will be artillery firings demonstrations at 11 a.m., 1:30 p.m. and 3 p.m.

On Sunday, a commemorative service at Washington Memorial Chapel at 11:15 a.m. will be followed by a congregational procession led by the Sons of the American Revolution Color Guard at 12:15 p.m. The celebration will conclude with a review of the 2nd PA Regiment by Lieutenant Colonel Jean-Michel Millet, Assistant Defense and Assistant Military Attaché to the French Embassy, followed by Revolutionary era music.

From noon to 4 p.m. on Sunday, visitors can also meet actors portraying General George Washington and the Marquis de Lafayette and hear how the Alliance changed history.

The encampment will be open to the public from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. At the same time, at the Park's Welcome Center, children will be able to create tri-corner hats and French flags to bring to the celebration on both days. The Valley Forge Convention and Visitors Bureau, Ltd. is a proud marketing partner of Valley Forge National Historical Park. The Bureau is a nonprofit, membership-based sales and marketing organization that aggressively promotes the Valley Forge area and Montgomery County as a convention site and leisure visitor destination by encouraging patronage of its 500-plus member hotels, restaurants, attractions and services. The Bureau's web site (www.valleyforge.org) serves visitors, residents, meeting planners and tour operators.

